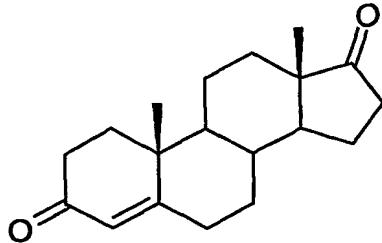


Claims:

1. A method for the transformation of 4-androsten-3,17-dione, Formula I,

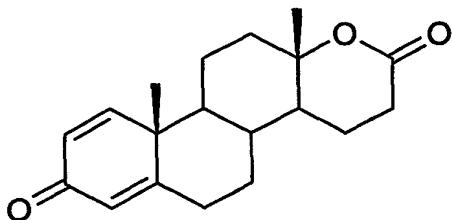
5



Formula I

to 17 α -oxo-*D*-homo-1,4-androstadiene-3,17-dione, Formula II

10



Formula II

comprising contacting a compound of Formula I in a bioconversion medium with a
15 filamentous species of *Fusarium* capable of performing the transformation.

2. A method of producing 17 α -oxo-*D*-homo-1,4-androstadiene-3,17-dione according to Claim 1 wherein the *Fusarium* species is *Fusarium solani*.
- 20 3. A method of producing 17 α -oxo-*D*-homo-1,4-androstadiene-3,17-dione according to Claim 1 wherein the *Fusarium* species is *Fusarium solani* strain ATCC 46829.
- 25 4. A method of producing 17 α -oxo-*D*-homo-1,4-androstadiene-3,17-dione according to Claim 3 wherein the substrate concentration is between 1 g/L and 80 g/L.

5. A method of producing 17α -oxo-*D*-homo-1,4-androstadiene-3,17-dione according to Claim 3 wherein the substrate concentration is between 10 g/L and 80 g/L.

5 6. A method of producing 17α -oxo-*D*-homo-1,4-androstadiene-3,17-dione according to Claim 3 wherein the substrate concentration is between 20 g/L and 80 g/L.

10 7. A method of producing 17α -oxo-*D*-homo-1,4-androstadiene-3,17-dione according to Claim 3 wherein the substrate concentration is between 40 g/L and 80 g/L.

15 8. A method of producing 17α -oxo-*D*-homo-1,4-androstadiene-3,17-dione according to Claim 3 wherein the substrate concentration is between 50 g/L and 70 g/L.

9. A method of producing 17α -oxo-*D*-homo-1,4-androstadiene-3,17-dione according to Claim 3 further comprising the steps of:

- a) preparing a primary seed culture of *Fusarium solani* ATCC46829;
- 20 b) preparing a secondary seed culture from the culture of step a);
- c) inoculating a bioconversion medium with the culture of step b);
- d) adding micronized 4-androsten-3,17-dione to the bioconversion medium;
- e) monitoring the biotransformation for completion;
- 25 f) collecting the solids of the bioconversion medium;
- g) extracting the solids; and
- h) isolating 17α -oxo-*D*-homo-1,4-androstadiene-3,17-dione.

10. A method according to Claims 1-9 wherein the bioconversion medium 30 contains a detergent and a natural oil.

11. A method according to Claim 10 wherein the detergent is octylphenoxy polyethoxy ethanol and the natural oil is soybean oil.